

A. J. Paterniti Nominee For Catholic Youth Award

It is highly probable that none of us will ever be able to boast of an "Emmy" or "Oscar" perched on top of our mantle. But there is one award for which nearly every Catholic college student is eligible — that is the Outstanding Catholic Youth Award.

This year Antoinette J. Paterniti, a senior in the sociology concentration, has been selected by the Student Council and National Federation of Catholic College Students delegates to represent Rosary Hill College in the national contest.

Toni is presently Vice President of the senior class and spiritual life chairman for the Sodality. A recipient of the Eagle of the Cross Award at the CYO Diocesan Convention in 1962, she has been named to Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities.

An active member of her parish and Catholic Young Adult Clubs Toni was also active in RHC's

Sodality. She served as that organization's secretary. Last year she taught Confraternity of Christian Doctrine classes at Saint Joseph's Parish.

In her junior year Toni was chairman of Moving Up Day and was elected MUD Queen of 1963.

This contest is sponsored by the Youth Department of the National Catholic Welfare Conference. Formerly this award was limited to one person, but this year the program has been expanded. Two youths will be chosen — one from the teenage set and one from the young adult age.

Qualifications are determined (Continued on page 3)

New Editor Assumes

Post in 1964

Margaret J. Kurnik '65, editor of The Ascent, has announced the appointment of Mary Patricia Hoftiezer '66 as the new editor of the campus newspaper.

An English Concentrator, Patricia's appointment officially takes effect in January, 1964 and terminates in January 1965. She will continue the policy initiated in January of 1963 by which editors are appointed in mid-year retaining a yearly position.

Occupying the seat of assistant editor for the fall semester, Patricia was the feature editor during the '63 spring semester.

Five RHC Students to Attend Seminar Held in Puerto Rico

Five Rosary Hill students plan to run down to Puerto Rico this Christmas vacation. Elaine M. Lepeirs, Lala M. DiPaolo, Patricia A. Shannon, Kathleen Roberts and Susanne J. Glaser are being sent as National and International Forum representatives from Rosary Hill.

They will join students from all over the Western Hemisphere at a Christmas Seminar being held at the Inter-American University at San German, Puerto Rico.

This seminar, which will run from December 18 thru the 24, is being sponsored by the Association of International Relations Clubs. Its purpose is a consideration of the "Caribbean Microcosm of World Struggle."

Included on the program will be such noted speakers as Dr. Juan Bosch, the President of the Dominican Republic and Honorable

Louis Munoz Marin, the Governor of Puerto Rico.

Senator Wayne Morse of the State of Oregon will represent the United States. Other speakers include Dr. Jose Miro Cardona and Mr. C. F. Beauregard.

The student representatives will also be expected to contribute actively in the discussions.

A wide range of topics will be considered, covering primarily political questions, such as Communism vs Democracy, the role of the military, emergent nationalism and poverty or plenty.

As a special project the Rosary Hill student representatives plan to take a poll of Puerto Rican opinions on political subjects and synthesize the results with the ideas they expect to obtain from the seminar itself.

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Editor's Note: Like all of us, Gerda Klein, author of the inspiring auto-biography, *All But My Life*, was profoundly moved by the cruel assassination of President Kennedy. Able to appreciate better than we who take so much for granted, she poured out her thoughts in a conversation held shortly after the tragic event. We urged her to put some of these thoughts into writing. We are grateful to Mrs. Klein for sharing her reflections with us.

"The President was shot!" Before the impact of that incredible statement reaches our consciousness, the forces which forestall a deeper penetration of consequences are already at work, blocking the worst, hopefully suggesting "he will get well." He is shot but he will be well, he must be well. Then the first statement: "They say, the President is dead..." They say... The statement is as yet unconfirmed, the voice of the announcer says. Unconfirmed! On that word all hopes hang. Unconfirmed. But with brutal clarity one sentence follows: "The President is dead!" Now it stands apart as a fact like a stone falling into murky waters with irretrievable finality. The President is dead. Everyone who heard those words is committed to the rest of his own days to remember and to recall at will, now as in years hence, the sudden chill that pervaded the climate of his own emotions.

Young people who had never lost a dear one before will remember the desperate thrashing of wings of pain and the trapped realization that no outside force would be able to release them, that this must remain within oneself. There is violent revolt against the cruel force which inflicted that pain and then the lights dim on the horizon of one's soul. Slowly, the wings of pain fold and shrink, and with peculiar heaviness remain a part of us. Each and everyone wishes to recapture the moment before the impact, the moment of utter peace, it seems in retrospect... and to marvel for the first—but unfortunately not the last time—that this peace, this joy was heretofore unappreciated.

Thousands upon thousands of words have been written by now by the most eloquent pens of our time, mourning, lauding, recording for history, analyzing the man who was so deeply and universally loved. Why? The finest minds of the world gave us the reasons.

He embodied America. The new, the young, the courageous, the beautiful. He was everybody's shining knight; even those who did not agree with him couldn't

help but be proud of him. He was the epitome of the American dream. He had the sophistication which marks our age, but he had another quality as well: he had, what I believe most people crave but are ashamed to express for fear that words and deeds which spell devotion, patriotism, honor

and honesty belong to an outmoded Victorian era.

Few of those phrases are found in contemporary literature and psychology. Psychiatrists do not prescribe it for the ills of the mind in 1963, yet John F. Kennedy was by no stretch of the imagination an archaic figure when he

stood tall and proud to deliver a special message to Congress in April, 1961 and said:

"No president can excuse or pardon the slightest deviation from irreproachable standards of behavior on the part of any member of the Executive Branch..." Again, it was the young President

who said at his Inauguration: "Let the word go forth from this time and place to friend and foe alike that the torch has been passed to a new generation of Americans."

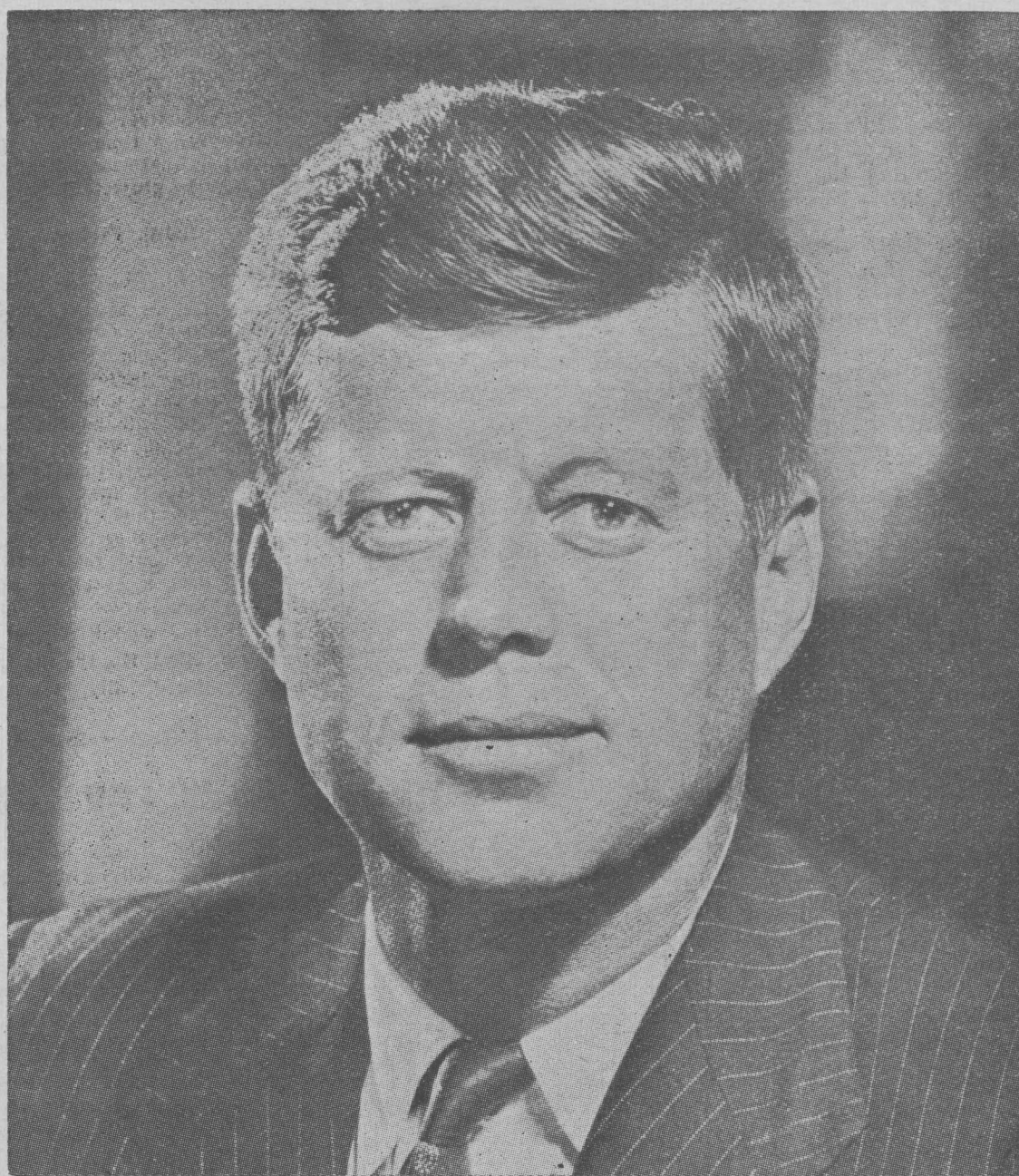
It rang out into the world and found an echo in our hearts, for those words somehow were strangely reminiscent of beloved words of yore: "Four score and seven years ago..." But those were Lincoln's words, spoken in an age when men died for honor and out of conviction for their principles. This is a new age, an age which is pre-occupied with the expression of the individual, the offbeat age where only the individual is of importance and society stands guilty. What is society but the sum total of individuals?

This is the age where success is measured only in terms of dollars. One does not strive to become a poet or teacher but a millionaire with a villa on the Riviera. And yet it was the man whom we all admired beyond our own belief who was a millionaire with villas on the Riviera, who by his own choice forfeited that life to become a teacher to the world and a hero for his people. This was the man who extolled old-fashioned virtue and yet we admired him—or perhaps that is why we admired him. Because in all of us is that seed of basic goodness and honesty which craves release. It was associated with the hero on a white charger in a by-gone age, and we are somewhat ashamed of that romantic notion. But when we heard it again from a herd of the jet age, we could rejoice without fear of ridicule.

I shall remember President Kennedy best at his Inauguration, standing hatless in the raw wind, listening to Robert Frost's poem. When the elderly gentleman seemed lost for a moment, shuffling among his notes, eager hands tried to smooth and speed the embarrassing moment. It was the young President who warded them off and let the poet stand alone, to say in his own way, his own words. To me, this was his moment of greatness.

The world mourns him now. His last, final speech, to be delivered that fateful day in Dallas contains this paragraph: "... and that we may achieve in our time and for all time, the ancient vision of Peace on Earth, goodwill toward men." How incredible that those words were the words of another great man of our time, the late Pope John. His last, unforgettable Easter message and legacy to the world. Those two men who died within the same year were beloved as few men

(Continued on page 5)



"In the long history of the world, only a few generations have granted the role of defending freedom in its hour of maximum danger. I do not shrink from this responsibility. I welcome it. I do not believe that any of us would exchange places with any other people or any other generation.

The energy, the faith, the devotion, which we bring to this endeavor will light our country and all who serve it, and the glow from that fire can truly light the world."

JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY
1917-1963

Editorial Comment

It Happened On a Friday Afternoon At School

A few snowflakes fell this morning, he thought—just a few. Maybe Thanksgiving Day will be white. There was time—it was a week away.

Today was Friday—his favorite day. Teacher told them to write a composition about what they were thankful for. He knew about Thanksgiving, the Pilgrims and America. His daddy had given him a puzzle map and showed him how each square box was a part of America. I'll write about that, he thought, I'll write about that, I'm thankful for America. I'll write about that.

He remembered that last year Teacher read them a Thanksgiving prayer. This year they were writing a composition. He knew that they didn't pray anymore.

There was a knock on the door. The little blonde girl in the first desk jumped up to answer, welcoming the interruption in the lesson. Teacher stopped writing on the blackboard. The little boy hoped that the knock was for him. It was fun to hope that the person at the door had a message for you. Sometimes the person even wanted you to run an errand.

It was for Teacher. Disappointed he enviously watched her as she went into the corridor to talk. He began to write about Thanksgiving, the Pilgrims and . . .

Teacher closed the door behind her. Everyone was quiet . . . she was crying. She walked to her desk. They waited. She quietly said, "Children, our beloved President, Mr. Kennedy, died today."

Everyone was silent. The little boy timidly, fearfully, raised his hand. "Teacher, can we pray today?"

MJK

Two Men Sent by God . . .

By MARY BENINCASA and PAUL WEISENBERGER

They were different in age, nationality, calling; one was poor, the other rich; one grew up in a simple environment and died a simple death; the other grew up in a complex environment and died a death bewildering in its complexity.

As often happens in the paradox of humanity, both men became world leaders. One led the world's most powerful spiritual force; the other was the leader of the world's most powerful temporal force. One guided the Barque of Peter; the other steered the Ship of State.

The two had goals as identical as their names, and the names prophesied their goals: John, the Forerunner, first to visualize a more perfect future, labring to make it reality. John XXIII and John Kennedy were innovators, always looking to the future with buoyant optimism. Both had the idealistic goals of unity and brotherhood among men. Both were dynamically swift in setting up programs of action; both men's programs were gargantuan in size and scope.

John XXIII not only spoke of the moral brotherhood of mankind but also spoke of men's rights to food, shelter, clothing. John Kennedy did not stop with establishing a Peace Corps to alleviate men's physical poverty. He fought against moral poverty with a Civil Rights' Bill. John XXIII sought to unite the world in Christianity. John Kennedy sought to unite the world in freedom: "All free men, wherever they may live, are citizens of Berlin. And therefore, as a free man, I take pride in the words 'Ich bin ein Berliner' (I am a Berliner)."

Neither man lived to see the fruit of his labors. But Pope Paul VI's words describing the impact of his predecessor could very well be applied to the heritage left by our late President:

"For to him we owe a new atmosphere, a new climate which enables us together, as brothers, to meet the obstacles which remain to be overcome on the path to a full and visible unity."

Education Aid Faces Stalemate

WASHINGTON (CPS) - A stalemate between House and Senate education leaders - with both sides accusing each other of congressional blackmail - has apparently killed hopes for any aid to education legislation this year.

In an interview with CPS last week, Chairman Adam Clayton Powell of the House Education and Labor Committee said the feud "is creating" a crisis in education.

At the heart of the controversy is a split between House-Senate conferees over a compromise version of the Vocational Aid Education Bill.

Powell, the controversial Harlem Democrat, said the delay over the Vocational Aid Bill "is very serious. This delaying action is killing all education bills."

Senate education leaders are keeping the \$1.2 billion college aid bill from reaching the floor and final approval until House members compromise along Senate lines on the vocational aid bill which also contains extension of student loans and grants under the National Defense Education Act (NDEA).

The joint conferees have hammered out a compromise version of a bill to aid colleges and universities with loans and grants over a five year period to build campus facilities.

The "Bricks and Mortar" bill sailed through the House Nov. 6 and needs only quick Senate approval.

But the education for conferees of both Houses haven't met since Nov. 8 to mold a compromise version of House and Senate vocational aid legislation.

While they are at odds on many points of the vocation bill the chief road block is the formula to be used in distributing program funds. The Senate wants a formula based on per capita income, while the House prefers one based on population. The Senate formula would favor poorer states in the South, while the House plan would help Northern states with large populations.

Sen. Wayne Morse, D-Ore., chief education pilot in the Senate pinpointed the squabble in a letter to the American Council on Education (ACE) which represents higher education in the Nation's capital.

"It's my hope," Morse said, "that the present difficulties can be overcome through conscientious compromise in the near future."

"I intend to work toward that end. In all candor, however, it's my judgement that the fastest way to overcome the difficulties with respect to the college aid bill will be to obtain, as soon as possible, an agreement on the vocational bill."

"The longer the delay in reaching that agreement, the more difficulty the Senate conferees will have on the floor of the Senate in gaining support for the conference report," Morse said.

Another point conferees must resolve is the NDEA program. The Senate wants to extend NDEA for three years. The House wants a simple extension for one year. The most popular college aid program expires next summer if not given new congressional authority.

While the conference committee hoped to schedule what was termed a "critical" meeting during the past week it failed to materialize.

As it stands now, all education bills will remain in the air until the end of this week. They could be dropped by the wayside in the last minute Congressional Christmas crush.

But, informed sources told CPS that frequent exchanges were being made between House and Senate leaders and that a "good chance" for swift action after Thanksgiving was in the offing.

Editor's Mailbag

Dear Editor,

In the November issue of the ASCENT, we find the following statement: "Apathy . . . is the universal characteristic of our campus."

It seems to me that the term apathy is not one that can be correctly applied to the majority of students at Rosary Hill. What exactly does apathy mean? The dictionary defines apathy as the lack of interest or desire for activity, indifference. However, is indifference the real culprit behind the failure of many plans and activities to reach their fruition?

I believe that we must take into consideration the reasons for which a student comes to Rosary Hill. The student handbook, I think, gives a clear idea of her purpose: "Their (the Franciscan) educational plan . . . is fashioned to assist the student in the search for wisdom and truth and in the attainment of the skills she will need in daily life . . . through a serious dedication to scholarship, an appreciative use of the spiritual opportunities offered to her, and participation in extra-curricular activities." These goals are demanding ones; they necessitate the budgeting of the student's available time.

Isn't it possible that most of the students characterized as apathetic might really be striving for a well-balanced program during their college years? Might they not find that, in order to give ample attention to each of these three means for attaining their goals, out they cannot find room for "involvement" (in the sense of active participation) in all that interests them?

It is my opinion that the Rosary Hill student finds much that interests her in our changing world, yet, in order to obtain her immediate objectives, she is forced to restrict for a time the active participation that is called for in many of the projects presented on campus.

Judith Ferraro, '64

Dear Editor:

I for one have always looked upon class feuds as undesirable. However, the Freshman Response in the November issue aroused in me a bit of wrath, a bit of envy and a bit of astonishment — wrath, that some of what they said was true; envy, that I didn't think of saying it first, and astonishment at the spirit with which their response was written. (I almost could feel a fire-breathing dragon expiring between the lines. Pardon me, while I dash for my sword. There! I have drawn blood. No, it's not the freshmen's blood, silly; it's the dragon's.)

Aside from the fact that I could further waste this space shooting their rebuttals full of holes—a feat which in itself would serve no worthy purpose—I want to let the freshmen know that, in my judgment, their interpretation of Janet Kapela's editorial was misrepresentative of the statements made by her. Although the response was initiated by a misunderstanding, I'm glad a response was made.

Throughout the article, the freshmen seemed to have begun a fad—that of carrying signs saying, "We are intellectuals. Won't you be one too?" This is fine. But a word to them if they have read this far: don't incarcerate yourselves in ivory tower intellectualism. The world is not run from an ivory tower.

I am calling upon you to be at home in the library or at a tea. If you are successful, you will not spill tea on the books.

Irene H. Rados

Dear Editor:

Papal Volunteers for Latin America sends qualified Catholic lay men and women to assist Latin American Church authorities who request volunteer aid in solving social, economic and religious problems.

Begun in 1960 under the auspices of the Latin America Bureau of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, PAVLA now has some 240 volunteers working on 63 projects in 12 Latin American countries. Hundreds more are urgently needed at this time of crisis for Latin America.

Papal Volunteers are enlisted through diocesan directors appointed in more than 100 U. S. dioceses and through college representatives appointed in most Catholic colleges. PAVLA looks to today's college men and women for qualified volunteers who wish to serve the Church in Latin America through lay mission activity.

Requests are on hand now for teachers from elementary to college level, for personnel in all phases of the medical profession, for engineers and technicians (from radio electronics to sanitation construction), and for community development workers as well as many other specialized openings. May we ask your cooperation in bringing this information to the attention of your student body?

Further information is available from the PAVLA campus representative, the local diocesan lay mission director, and from the PAVLA national secretariate, 1300 South Wabash, Chicago, Illinois 60605.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
David O'Shea
National Secretary

Now Is The Time To Fall In Love

With the flurry of snowflakes and the pungent smell of evergreens, Christmastime is with us again.

But certainly, for most people at least, Christmas has a much deeper meaning. For Christians the world over hold Christmas as the most festive and joyous of holidays. Thanksgiving is a time of expressing gratitude to a Divine Providence. Easter celebrates Christ's triumph and through Him, our own victory over death.

But Christmas is nevertheless the best loved. Why? Perhaps because as charity is the greatest of virtues, so the feast most centered about this virtue is naturally the happiest in spirit and the closest to mankind's heart.

For not only does Christmas emphasize charity, it promotes it by commemorating what is the most awesome enigma of all time, the eternal love of a God for His people, a love so great that He became a "partaker of our humanity."

Christmas is a happy occasion with the exchange of gifts and friendly greetings, the observance of many warm traditions and the multitude of colorful decorations. But underlying all these in giving this day of days its special, inimitable air, is the inner peace which prevails as Earth seems to pause for a moment in eternity and ponder a Bethlehem night of long ago.

Margaret Mount



The Ascent

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EDITOR Margaret J. Kurnik
ASSISTANT EDITOR M. Patricia Hoftiezer
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We Must So Love— That They May Forgive

New York's Bowery does not change because of the Thanksgiving season; it keeps the same smells, the same dirt and the same faces. It would be easier to view that region with the same attitude we reserve for China Town, Harlem or Little Italy. Ethnic islands at least have a particular culture to justify their existence, but the Bowery is different. It is a nomad land of men and women who have, theoretically, come to the end of the line.

They sleep on pavements or huddle in doorways, rent flops for the night, if they have a dollar twenty, run the risk of rats and hear men racked with tubercular coughs, live out of shopping bags, populate soup lines, drink "sneaky pete" over garbage-can fires and, if they are lucky, they die.

But it is the living that one must be ultimately concerned about, and that is the reason service organizations have been situated around the Bowery and Lower East Side of New York. The Catholic Worker is one such organization which started in the early thirties as a Christian-Socialist movement concerned with politics and the poor. It is the latter I am concerned about because I believe it is through this sacrament that the Worker receives its strength.

The Chrystie Street House is situated one block from the Bowery in a poor, primarily Puerto Rican neighborhood. It serves 100-175 men soup every day and an evening meal for the Worker family. The family consists of about 75 people, most of them working around the house, running errands, helping cook, feeding the cats that roam the place, and all this for a pack of cigarettes, a meal or perhaps some place to sleep for the night. The organization today is still headed by its co-founder Dorothy Day and is run by a rather fluctuating staff of about 15 members. It exists solely through the private donations of the people who love its ideals, most of whom subscribe to the organization's monthly paper which has a subscription list of 70,000. The Worker has, in a strange way, flourished.

Late last summer I promised the Catholic Worker enough money from Rosary Hill to have a turkey dinner for Thanksgiving. The week before the 28th Joanne Bakeman, Chris Kobos, Jeaninne Heimann, Gail McHugh, Patty Shannon, Mary Powers, Judy Thrasher and Barbara Terenzi collected \$37.00 from the dorm students, enough for two thirty pound turkeys and fixings. The Wednesday night before Thanksgiving four members of the Workers staff, two seminarians from Catholic University and I stayed at the Worker chopping, slicing, stuffing and singing.

Thanksgiving day was bleak in the Bowery; there is no real individuality in the long line of gray-faced and shuffling men. They stop, pick up their plate, shuffle over to the table, sit, eat somberly, and leave. There is little conversation here, little familiar gaiety and you begin to wonder why you are here and also why you are resented.

But that is merely self-pity, and one has to sweep aside the dismal and concentrate on the unobtrusive acts of grace that make the day worth while. You think of Rickey. The little Puerto Rican boy and how his face lit up when he was given the extra turkey to take home to his Mother and eight brothers and sisters, or you remember Jim, one of the Bowery men you got to know by name, who just came up to you and wanted to shake your hand.

You look at Marie who used to walk the streets of the Bowery and sleep in subway stations and who now sits across from you at the table and who rather likes you, regardless of the way you are dressed. There is so much these people must forgive you for: for your dress, your speech, for the way your hand automatically feels for a napkin that is

not there, for your sometimes patronizing smile.

St. Vincent de Paul sums up the whole situation when he says that we must not only be understanding, but so love the poor that they can forgive us our charity. And this is it, in a way, merely asking one another's forgiveness. We all, beggar or banker, share the same shortcomings. The only thing that really divides us is our social bracket; for our common humanity lies often in our failings.

It would be easy to think that God had turned His face from this place and by doing so had consciously blasted all these men and women to anonymity. It is so easy that it cannot possibly be true. The wonder of this region is that people are forced to pray to one another in a very unique way.

For out of this conscious attempt to suffer in and not with others, to live as and not like them, comes a more complete prayer. And in the act of praying to one another one reaches something which is the very essence of Christianity - the words of love coming directly from the act of loving.

Leon Bloy would better express this in his mystical way by saying, "Poverty is divine because it plays this part for others, because in appealing to charity - not good works or alms giving, but charity, which is the love of God in his creatures - it bestows charity."

It is the poor who give, by receiving, by asking, and who thus bring God to life, for a moment, in hearts which listen to them."

Unity And Volume In Numbers Yields Strength And Power

One man calls out. Maybe he is heard and helped by those nearby. Maybe he is not. Hundreds of men call out. They are heard by those both near and far. Their unity and volume give them strength and power. The implications herein are paralleled in the aims and goals of most national organizations. Whether the organization be composed of politicians, laborers, doctors, or students, the inherent aims and the hoped for results are the same.

On Saturday, November 16, the North Central Region of the NFCCS held its second regional meeting in Chicago, the purpose of which was to explain the raison d'être of the National Federation of Catholic College Students. In attendance were Student Government Presidents from Marquette, Loyola, and several other schools not affiliated with the Federation. The program, began with a panel presentation entitled "NFCCS Explained."

Participating on the panel were Father Eugene Dehner, National Chaplain; Jim O'Donnell, National President; Dave Ellis, Student Government President at Notre Dame; and I as Regional Affairs Vice President.

Although we used different words and different examples, we explained the purpose of the Federation in much the same way I explained the purpose of any national organization. It is only through the structure of a national federation that the entire American student community can effectively express its opinions, and effectively act.

Was this explanation acceptable to those present? Yes, it was "acceptable"; but only as an ideal. They wanted us to spell out this ideal in realistic terms. We were all prepared to do just that. Our resolutions, our programs, our

Christmas

We believe in Christmas, because it is the birthday of the Prince of Peace and Brotherhood; the birthday of the Christ who chased the money-changers from the temple; who said, "Love thy neighbor as thyself"; who said "Suffer the little children to come unto me, for such is the Kingdom of Heaven."

This is the Christ we celebrate; the great Jewish carpenter-philosopher who was born in a manger in Bethlehem.

Thousands of atrocities committed against humanity and the Negro people from slavery to the present time, have gone unpunished. And now we are mocking the Prince of Peace; throwing bombs in the holy place of God... We are guilty... those who condone injustice and segregation and thereby give it sanction... And who among us can participate in life as usual, in business as usual, or even Christmas as usual?

Let us celebrate Christmas this year in a way that will bear witness to the life and the love of Jesus.

This year we will give our children the profoundest gift of all the gift of truth which is the gift of love... We will make gifts and toys with our hands from boxes and cans and string and last year's toys and paste and paint and wood and love.

To the sellers of tress and trains and pins and pianos, we urge you to understand and to pledge with us, that this Christmas shall come from our hearts and minds, not from our pocket-books. To the ones who must give something, notwithstanding we urge you to give to the organizations and institutions working to build and strengthen the moral and religious fibre of our nation.

It is in this spirit that we ask all colors creeds and religious to join us in this determination to put Christ back into Christmas and His Great Life back into moral and religious perspective.

The essay above is an excerpt taken from Christmas 1963, U.S.A. It was written by: Association of Artists For Freedom.

Need! Challenge! Answer! Texas, Here We Come!

Mission is the word most often used to describe the sending forth of men to perform works of charity among the needy in the world.

Mentally we form a picture panorama of thatched leaking huts, palm trees nosily peeking over unpaved roads, and a haunted, superstitious people.

Though this kind of mission is still a reality, today we describe the civilized godlessness of our own society as a true mission field.

One such mission field blossom-



DANIEL SHIELER

ed in Caline, Texas, in 1957. Father Frederick Underwood witnessed that the sisters in his parish school were being overworked because of a shortage of teachers. He set out to remedy this difficulty and founded the Catholic Lay Mission Corps. He visualized young Catholic men and women volunteering to serve a few years in his lay apostolate.

That year four people rooted themselves in the parish community in order to alleviate the teaching shortage.

Father Underwood's efforts grew into a realization of a dream. His crew, to date, has grown to fifty-five young men and women who teach in the Texas parish schools.

Mr. Daniel Shieler, a Lay Mission Corps worker came to speak to the Rosary Hill Community recently. He spoke of the need for Catholic workers in the southern community of the United States. Picturing his words in a set of slide photographs taken right in the mission field, he stressed our responsibility to seriously consider spending one or even two years teaching in Texas.

Mr. Shieler listed the qualifications necessary. A practicing Catholic between the ages of twenty-five is eligible. The applicant should be the holder of a bachelor degree and be willing to teach.

Each lay missionary receives his room and board plus forty dollars a month during his one or two year stay. Though transportation to Texas must be taken care of by the individual, the Mission Corps provides for the trip home at Christmas. The lay missionaries live together in one community.

Sister M. Urban, O.S.F. is the campus representative for the lay apostolate. Any questions can be directed to her or to:

Catholic Lay Mission Corps
1111 Montopolis Drive
Austin, Texas 78741

Catholic Student Federation Shapes Up Year's Program

NFCCS — enough initials for a government bureau. But they stand for far more. The National Federation of Catholic College Students is all that the name implies: it is a bond of unity among the 90,000 students in 160 Catholic colleges and universities throughout the United States; it is a means of filling specific Catholic student needs which cannot be met effectively by the individual colleges alone.

The NFCCS was organized in 1937 by student representatives of colleges in the New York area. Speaking for the student bodies they represented, these delegates recognized the definite need for a unification of student forces, because a "contended individualism" and ineffective isolation made it impossible for students in different colleges to work toward a common objective.

In order to better stimulate thought and action on contemporary issues and to represent the opinions of Catholic College students on these issues, the Federation is set up on three levels—national, regional and campus. But how do these levels operate to serve you?

The four secretariates of the national organization — Religious Affairs, Social Action Affairs, International Affairs, and Student Affairs — plan and provide information to the member campuses. This year's projects include student tutorial, the lay apostolate, pluralism including religious comparison, and civil rights. The information and materials on these are being used by various campus organizations to assist them in their programs.

The regional level has much to offer here in the Lake Erie Region. Last week was the Regional Meeting at Mercyhurst on the question of the legal drinking age. In the future is our Regional Congress, April 12 and 13. The

over-all topic of the congress is discrimination in our own areas. Each member college will be developing a particular phase and will present a workshop on its findings. This brings us to part of the programming for our own campus.

Our aspect for the congress is Housing. This we hope will play a large part in our second semester program. It will cover such things as the Ellicott project, integration in the suburbs, and Buffalo's shum areas. We will study the problem through the Civil Rights Bill, panels, speakers and visiting workshops.

The hope is that all participating in this program will gain a deeper understanding of the problems and that they will wish to bring forth resolutions and perhaps significant action.

The members of your campus committee are here to serve you. If you have any suggestions, questions, or requests, please let us know.

Kathleen Hunt, '65
NFCCS Senior Delegate

God Loves Me

"The mystery of mysteries is that God loves me. We have rattled off these words in singsong catechism response. We have added our amens to prayers that were studded with pious phrases about God's love for us. At the same time we have carefully avoided any reflection on the words lest they disturb our cozy relations with God. If we let down our defenses and permit the words to penetrate to the core of our being, what we presently call peace will be disturbed."

Fr. Dennis J. Geaney, O.S.A.



ELAINE M. BALL

liations were among the "real" things they wanted to know. And gradually we began to convince them of the worth of the Federation.

Much to our amazement, a member of the Marquette Student Senate provided us with an example of the importance of a

(Continued on page 6)

Fr. Bissonnette Reveals Views Of Kremlin Plans

"The preservation of Russia's dominance of the Soviet bloc and avoidance of a third world war are more important to Soviet Premier Nikita S. Khrushchev than the conquest of the free world."

Thus the Rev. Georges L. Bissonnette, A.A., summed up the goals of the Kremlin leaders in the world today. Dean of Faculty and Professor of Political Science at Assumption College, Worcester, Massachusetts, Father was the Modern Foreign Language Club's guest lecturer, November 18.

Father Bissonnette, a former apostolic administrator of Russia, opposed the image of Khrushchev as a power-hungry war-monger. He views the Soviet Premier essentially as a realist who would avoid a third world war at all costs unless the U.S.S.R.'s continued existence left no alternative.



FR. GEORGES BISSONNETTE

The recent halting of American military convoys on the German Autobahn Father explained as a "face-saving device" which the Kremlin leaders used to please the Communist allies. "Khrushchev has to maintain a show of hostility to the West; the level of his harassment, however, is not high enough that the U. S. will retaliate with extreme measures."

Khrushchev "has just about given up" in the space race, he noted, since the Soviet economy cannot match U. S. defense expenditures. Further, the use of the sea to pursue their goals is denied to the Soviets because of the American naval power.

In answer to a question from one of the 300 listeners, Father Bissonnette interpreted the American sale of wheat to Russia as an effort on the part of Khrushchev to feed his people. The agricultural disasters of Eastern Europe have forced him to seek U. S. assistance, and, Father predicted, the Premier "will be coming back for more grain."

Father also cited a developing unpopularity in the Iron Curtain countries for Communist-style foreign aid, as evidenced in newspapers and magazines in satellite nations.

Patron\$ \$end \$tyle Of Patron\$ \$oaring

Do you know how much it costs to put out a yearbook? Ask Mary M. Lahiff, managing editor of the Summit, whether the money allotted by the school to the publication is enough.

"It's barely enough if the students want a yearbook lacking imagination and eliminating activity pictures and other finishing touches," she says. "We need the complete participation of every student in the selling of patrons for their yearbook."

If full student cooperation is given to this year's staff, and they are able to raise more than enough to cover expenses, possibly added features, such as color, can

'63 Graduates Relieve Shortage In Catholic Secondary School

A '63 graduate of R.H.C. the former Helen S. Habermehl is now known as Mrs. Liebler to her students at Bishop Newman High School in Williamsville.

While at Rosary Hill, Helen was active in both the Sodality and the Math Club. She was elected class president for three years and president of the Student Association in her senior year.

Helen now teaches five classes daily. Two of her classes are for freshmen taking elementary algebra course, and two others are intermediate algebra for juniors and seniors. Helen also conducts a class in business arithmetic for sophomores.

The classes vary in size, ranging from twenty to forty-two pupils. Three classes consist of girls; one is for senior boys, and the other is mixed.

What were Helen's reasons for choosing to teach in a diocesan school rather than one of our public institutions? It is certainly not a matter of necessity, for she is qualified to teach in public schools. It is true that

the Catholic schools offer few discipline problems, but this was not the reason for sacrificing the opportunity of receiving a higher salary.

The ideal behind Helen's choice lay in the fact that she realized how desperately the Catholic schools need teachers. Perhaps there would not be such a problem if more Catholic teachers would make this kind of sacrifice. Helen has and by so doing she may very well have set an example for future teachers especially those who will be graduating from Rosary Hill in the coming years.

Another member of the class of '63, Gabriella M. Cesharffe, nee Horvath, is also presently teaching at the Bishop Newman High School in Williamsville.

With an average of forty students per class, Gabriella teaches five classes a day. Her subject is German, and her students range from freshmen to seniors.

While here at Rosary Hill, Gabriella was Student Director of plays and chairman of the hostessing committee. As a freshman

she served as editor of the newspaper for the Third Order of Saint Francis.

Gabriella too, has chosen to teach in a Catholic school rather than to accept a position in the public school system. Her reasons for this decision are similar to those of her classmate, Helen Liebler.

The first week or so of teaching is the hardest, according to Gabriella, but once the work becomes systematized, it is "extremely satisfying."

Another reason for her decision was Gabriella's background. Having always attended Catholic schools, she almost naturally turned to them when it came time to choose her place of work.

Both girls are satisfied with their jobs and plan to continue at Bishop Newman High School. By their decisions they have helped in the alleviation of a steadily increasing problem within our Catholic educational system. The question is - Will others follow their example?

Margaret Mount

Frosh Choose Class Leaders

"I don't believe it." Such was Carol Whistler's reaction to the voting session which appointed her President of the Class of 1967.

Elections were held during the freshman class meeting on Tuesday, November 11.



Lucille and Carol

Lucille Holmes was elected Freshman Class Representative. Both Carol, a graduate of Holy Angels Academy and Lucille, who attended Magnificat High School in Cleveland are now members of the Student Council.

The office of Vice President was delegated to Phyllis Friscia, a dorm student from Long Island. Margaret Magher, also a dorm student, was chosen class secretary.

Mary Jane Feldman was elected treasurer.

Philharmonic Will Perform The Messiah

The most Buffalonians, the highlight of the Christmas season, musically at least, is the annual presentation by the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra of George Frederick Handel's magnificent oratorio "The Messiah." This year is no exception. The performance will take place at 8:30 p.m. Friday, December 20th in Kleinhans Music Hall. As in the past, four internationally known soloists will appear with the Buffalo Schola Cantorum, under the direction of Richard Sheil. Maestro Lukas Foss will conduct.

Canadian soprano Pierrette Alarie, leading coloratura of the Paris Opera and the Opera Comique, made her debut a few short years ago with the Metropolitan Opera.

Leopold Simoneau, a virtuoso performer who has been leading tenor of the Vienna State Opera, La Scala and the Paris Grand Opera, is also a Canadian.

Russell Oberlin is considered the outstanding counter-tenor of our time, and is virtually unique in that he does not use the "falsetto" voice and is equally at home in the tenor repertoire.

Bass-baritone John West is well-known to Buffalo audiences for his many appearances with the Buffalo Philharmonic in the annual presentation of the St. Passion.

Handel's masterwork, and perhaps the best-known and best-loved oratorio ever written The Messiah was first performed in Dublin Ireland in 1742. Since that time, it has become traditional all over the world to present The Messiah during the Christmas season.

PUERTO RICO

(Continued from page 1)

NIF feels that this information will be of great help in the projects they plan for the next semester especially when they represent a Latin American country at the model United Nations at Montreal in February.

Xmas Assembly Sets Yule Spirit

Rosary Hill College celebrated Christmas during the annual Christmas assemblies on Monday, December 9 and Thursday, December 12.

Included on the program was the blessing and lighting of the Christmas tree in the Marian Social Room. In keeping with tradition, the second chapter of the Gospel of Saint Luke was read.

Installation of the freshman class president and class representative as members of the Student Council was also included.

Highlighting the celebration was the presentation made to Sister M. Angela, O.S.F. of the check from the proceeds from Carnival Weekend. This contribution from the student body for the Development Fund was made by Bonita R. LaDuca, '64 and Barbara A. Connors, chairmen of Carnival Weekend.

Entertainment was provided by Sharon M. Vastola, '65 and the Dance Club. Sharon entertained with a selection of folk songs and the Dance Club presented an interpretation of the song, "Mary Had a Baby."

Adding to the celebrations was the opportunity for all to join in some Christmas caroling.

MERRY CHRISTMAS from the STAFF

Role of the Women In Catholic Women's Colleges Theme of S C Workshop

Catholic Woman's College will be the theme of the fourth annual Student Association Workshop to be held February 8 and 9.

Chairman Kathleen Hunt '65 and co-chairman Claudia Kregg

derived from the workshop for the student community and each individual. She noted that last year's workshop, which reevaluated previously-drawn resolutions, aroused a "serious consideration of the needs and necessity



Kathleen Hunt and Claudia Kregg discuss workshop plans.

'66 are in the process of materializing their tentative schedule of events for the two-day affair. To date plans call for three seminars each of which will cover one of the concepts in the title theme. After the concept is introduced by a keynote speaker, the participants will divide into several workshops.

A religious person is tentatively planned to introduce the concept of "Catholic." A well known personality is being sought to convey the concept of "Woman." An educator is being sought to speak on the concept of "College."

Claudia, in an interview, cited the importance and benefits

of Student Government and the clubs on campus."

She also pointed out that "a serious concern for national and international affairs," was more visibly apparent with the redefining of the National and International Commissions."

When asked of the effect of the Workshop held last year, Claudia pointed to the "modern spirit" that has become more apparent on campus as a result of the realization of many of the resolutions passed last year.

Claudia issued a general invitation to the entire student body to attend. Registration dates will be announced later.

"Unjust laws exist; shall we be content to obey them, or shall we endeavor to amend them, and obey them until we have succeeded, or shall we transgress them at once? Men generally, under such a government as this, think that they ought to wait until they have persuaded the majority to alter them. They think that, if they should resist, the remedy would be worse than the evil. But it is the fault of the government itself that the remedy is worse than the evil."

Henry David Thoreau

Miss Mary A. Stegmeier Aids Student Employment Seekers

The neatness and simplicity of her office reflected the preciseness and straightforwardness of Miss Mary Ann Stegmeier, Rosary Hill's Placement Director. It was one o'clock in the afternoon. A relieved senior departed after having her interview. The outer office was already filled with students — all hoping to obtain a job on campus or to discuss some particular problem in relation to their work.

Senior interviews are taking up most of her time this month, Miss Stegmeier explained. This personal conversation between each senior and her placement director



MISS STEGMEIER

gives the student some idea of what to expect in future interviews and can help her attain a permanent position after graduation.

Miss Stegmeier adeptly assists them as they prepare to step into challenging fields of employment. Every girl submits a resume of qualifications to her. Attempting to see that the students are accepted in the fields of their choice, Miss Stegmeier forwards a confidential folder containing evaluations and references to prospective employers.

Senior interviews are only part of her busy daily routine, however. Miss Stegmeier is always ready to help girls wishing to defray part of their college expenses by working on campus. And she has her own unique touch.

"She makes you feel important . . . if it weren't for her, I wouldn't be here," Diane Sorohan said.

Barbara Crolle, part-time secretary to Miss Stegmeier, recalls the speed with which she received her assignment. "Miss Stegmeier asked me if I liked to work. I said, 'Yes'. And before I knew what had happened, I had a job. She's very conscientious, always finding time for the students."

Through "Career Day" which was co-ordinated by Miss Stegmeier, Rosary Hill students were given a realistic picture of avail-

able occupations which can be found in their own fields of concentration. In a further effort to help girls to select satisfying careers, Miss Stegmeier contacts speakers to give their views on the opportunities which are open to college graduates.

Miss Joyce Musial, a '63 graduate of Rosary Hill, has found the challenge she was seeking as a Woman Marine Officer after having listened to a recruiter on campus.

After an interview by a representative from the CIA, Ann Marie Weiss and Kathleen Kinsella secured government positions in Washington, D.C.

Last year Susan Donahue and Barbara Stoughton listened to an accurate account of the exciting and exacting work which is found in the Peace Corps. Today, these girls lead the adventurous, rewarding lives of Peace Corps workers.

To aid girls in attaining positions on campus, Miss Stegmeier posts notices of available work and interviews girls to decide if they have the necessary qualifications for switchboard, library, or secretarial work.

A graduate of Marygrove College for women, Detroit, Michigan, Miss Stegmeier majored in sociology. She agrees that her college work definitely aided her in her position. The field, she explained is a comparatively new one. Few small colleges have a full time director of placement.

Before coming to Rosary Hill, Miss Stegmeier had positions with the Erie Department of Social Welfare, the Army Special Services in Fort Niagara, and the USO in Jacksonville, North Carolina.

"What are the satisfactions of a placement director?" we asked.

"Knowing that the girls find jobs and that they are happy and satisfied in their work is my greatest reward," Miss Stegmeier replied as she fingered the file folder for the first in a long line of students waiting impatiently for us to conclude the interview.

Woman In The Business World Discussed At Recent Workshop

"She thinks like a man" — complement or criticism? This quality and other aspects of women as supervisors were discussed recently in a one-day workshop sponsored by the Business and Professional Woman's Clubs of New York State, Inc. in cooperation with the Cornell School of Industrial and Labor Relations. The gathering was held at the Charter House Motel on Transit Road.

Sister M. Sarah, chairman of the business concentration, and four business seniors attended as representatives from the Business Interest group of Rosary Hill. Those seniors were Susan M. Cramer, Kathleen M. Eron, Judith A. Kuznia, and Sharo A. Perkins.

In the morning session, Mr. Aaron Mitchell, Employment Manager of the Professional and Commercial Center of the New York State Employment Service, spoke on "Planning a Career". He stressed the fact that women of today, even college graduates, must be prepared to retrain themselves two or three times during their professional lifetimes.

Jobs are now being made obsolete or so extremely technical that present training will not be sufficient to meet the challenge of the new technologies.

Overseas Study Announced

Application periods for three full-year study programs in Paris, Vienna, and Freiburg, West Germany, for U. S. undergraduates will open Monday (Nov. 8), three months earlier than usual.

The Institute of European Studies announced in Chicago that students have until June 5, 1964, to submit formal applications for the 1964-65 programs. The application period was opened earlier because enrollments for the spring 1964 programs in Vienna and Freiburg are filling up rapidly. Institute officials said.

The Paris Honors program allows qualified liberal art students opportunities to study in their major fields at the University of Paris and other Paris schools. Six weeks of intensive language training before classes open help to prepare students for courses, which are taught only in French. Enrollment is limited to B-average juniors and a few outstanding sophomores.

The Paris program is under the direction of a professor of the Institut d'Etudes Politiques, a part of the University of Paris.

The Institute's "European Year" program at the University of Vienna offers a choice between German and English taught courses in history, political science, literature, philosophy, psychology, economics, fine arts and other fields, plus intensive German language instruction and opportunities to take regular German-taught courses in the university. Applicants need not have had German, but must be juniors or sophomores with at least C-plus averages.

"Das Deutsche Jahr" at the 500-year-old University of Freiburg, in Germany's Black Forest, is conducted for juniors in political science, history, literature, philosophy, educational theory and psychology. It offers complete integration into a European university, together with about one hour of tutoring for each hour of class. All courses, of course are conducted in German. Applicants must have a B average.

Each program includes two field trips in western Europe with Institute lecturers. A folder describing the program is available from the Institute of European Studies, 35 E. Wacker Drive, Chicago, Ill.

Scientific Research Urges Sister M. Justa Onward

EPR, Trypsin and Magnetic Fields—words nebulous in meaning to most of us, take on new dimensions when explained by Rosary Hill College's chairman of the Chemistry Department.

Sister M. Justa, O.S.F. returned to RHC this year after completing work on her doctorate at the Institute Divi Thomae in Cincinnati.

Recently, Sister Justa attended the International Biomagnetics Symposium at the University of Illinois. Sister read a paper she authored on the "Preliminary Studies On The Effects Of Ultraviolet Irradiation and High Magnetic Fields On Trypsin." The gathering was composed of university professors and scientists from all over the world.

Also in attendance were personnel of government research centers connected with space research. They are interested in the magnetic field and its effect on man when he travels into space.

Sister's paper will be published as a chapter of the book, *Progress In Biomagnetics*.

During Christmas vacation, Sister Justa will be doing research at the Varian Associates Laboratories in Pittsburg. At the labs, Sister will use an EPR Apparatus (i.e. make an Electron Paramagnetic Resonance Spectra of Trypsin before and after exposure to UV and Magnetic Fields.) This



SISTER M. JUSTA

apparatus should indicate any structural change in the molecule of the Trypsin Enzyme due to denaturation by UV and activation by a magnetic field.

Through EPR, Sister hopes to observe whether any change can be determined in the Enzyme, which is found in the Pancreas. If this change can be observed than a further contribution will be made in learning the molecular structure of the Enzyme.

Other avenues of further research will be opened with this knowledge.

Press Congress Site Announced New York And Washington, D. C.



Editors from United States colleges and universities will be attending the annual Overseas Press Club College Editors Conference.

Beginning Friday, January 31 and ending Monday, February 3, 1964 the Congress will focus on international affairs. Leading statesmen and political figures will be featured including informal discussion seminars with

noted professional journalists.

The New York Clubhouse of the Overseas Press Club will again serve as headquarters for the Conference. A special innovation this year will be a one-day session in the nation's capitol, Washington, D.C., under White House auspices.

The editors of *The Ascent* have tentatively planned to attend this conference.

"And thus, in the days ahead, only the very courageous will be able to make the hard and unpopular decisions necessary for our survival in the struggle with a powerful enemy — an enemy with leaders who need give a little thought to the popularity of their course, who need pay little tribute to the public opinion they themselves manipulate, and who may force, without fear of retaliation at the polls, their citizens to sacrifice present laughter for future glory. And only the very courageous will be able to keep alive the spirit of individualism and dissent which gave birth to this nation, nourished it as an infant and carried it through its severest tests upon the attainment of its maturity."

Profiles in Courage
John Fitzgerald Kennedy

President Kennedy

Cont. from Page 1

are in the annals of history. One old, one young, both endowed with the same vision, the same unfulfilled dream for which the world loved them and now mourns them.

May the light eternal on our late President's grave be a constant reminder in our lives and ignite within us the spark of dedication which will illuminate new frontiers of understanding the unique legacy: Peace on Earth.

"In every work of genius we recognize our own alienated majesty. Great works of art have no more affecting lesson for us than this. They teach us to abide by our spontaneous impression with good-humored inflexibility the most when the whole cry of voices is on the other side. Else tomorrow a stranger will say with masterly good sense precisely what we have thought and felt all the time, and we shall be forced to take with shame our own opinion from another."

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Catholic Youth

Cont. from Page 1

bp previous activity and outstanding work in her parish, high school, CYO, campus and lay apostolate.

Last year Claudia M. Kregg, presently Sophomore Class President was honored by receiving a runner-up medal. "It's a great feeling," she says.

Rosary Hill's choice will be presented before the Board of Judges consisting of the presidents of the Neumann Federation, Catholic Youth Organization and National Federation of Catholic College Students. The final decision is made upon the agreement of these four presidents.

The winners will be announced between December 8 and 20.

Why of College Ring Explained at Ceremony

"Solemn occasions are formal occasions and formal occasions require formal speeches." Thus Father William L. Riley began his message to the Junior Class on the occasion of their Ring Day Ceremony at Saint Benedict's Church in November 10.

A professor of philosophy at Canisius College, Father Riley philosophically orientated his talk, expounding the "why's" of the college ring. He explained "why" the formality surrounding the reception of the ring and "why" the ring will continue to echo with the meaning attached to it.

And what is this morning? A display not only of the loyalty to Rosary Hill College, but also of self-dedication to the cause for

which it stands. "This ring is not like any other you have received or will receive." It is "a college ring for your college hand." The ring is "symbolic evidence of your hand's and your person's commitment to receiving and holding and sharing . . . truth."

Following the ceremony at the church, parents and friends attended a reception in the Marian Social Room.

Elaine Parlato was chairman of the event.

News In Brief

Rosary Hill Library is the recipient of an original edition of the *New York Tribune* of January 6, 1863. This rare, 100-year old paper was contributed to the college by Mr. Charles J. Wick, Chairman of the Advisory Board of Rosary Hill.

Sister M. Claire, assistant librarian, said that one of the paper's most valuable contributions is the comparison of its journalistic style with that of today's.

It is not yet on public exhibit but may be seen upon request in the library.

Joanne L. Angelo, '64, Francine L. Ross, '67, and Kathleen L. Kohl, '64 attended the New York State School Music Association

Convention on December 7.

Joanne acted as Senior Delegate in representing RHC and Kathleen helped to demonstrate the Carl Orff Method of Teaching Music. This method was given by Dr. Ian Henderson of Syracuse University. He used a number of grade school children and various instruments in the demonstration.

Dr. William Regelson, Associate Chief Cancer Research Internist of the Department of Medicine at Roswell Park Memorial Institute will speak on campus February 18.

His lecture, entitled "Smoking and the Lung Cancer Problem," and open to the public, will be presented in Lourdes Lounge at 7:30 p.m.

Important Dates For Seniors

SENIORS — dates to remember (if interested in the following, please contact the placement office):

January 16, 1964 — apply for the N. Y. State Banking Examination which will be given on February 8, 1964.

Thursday, January 16, 1964—Miss Carol Vogel, Library Career Consultant, University of Pittsburgh will discuss careers in Librarianship. (sign up in placement office)

New York City Social Investigator Trainee and Recreation Leader Examinations are given any Tuesday at 8:30 a.m.

*Saturday, Wednesday, February 19, 1964—representative from the Pittsburgh Public Schools will interview teacher candidates. (sign up in placement office)

Thursday, February 27, 1964—Mr. Ralph Bradford, Recruitment Representative from the Internal Revenue Service will interview on campus Mathematics, Business, and Economics candidates. (sign up in the placement office)

*Saturday, February 15, 1964 — Federal Service Entrance Examination will be held on campus — Juniors and Seniors may apply.

Science Candidates — a representative from Harvard Medical Center will recruit on campus if enough students are interested (leave your name in the placement office).

(Continued from page 3)
national federation to even a very large university. For the past few months, a faculty member at Marquette U. has been investigating the possibility of attaching the McCarthy Bill (under which the Federal Government would permit parents to subtract a portion of tuition and fee charges from their income-tax bill) to the graduated tax revision bill before it reaches the floor of Congress.

He said that the administration, faculty and student body at Marquette alone could not persuade congressmen to consider this bill. But, he said, the combined efforts of college students throughout the country could influence our congressmen.

Marquette lacks the national structure (the national office in Washington, the national membership, the money, and the influence) to handle this issue effectively. He then asked the NFCCS to consider this project.

To date, however, Marquette has not affiliated with the NFCCS. In talking with John Bendt, their Student Senate President, I discovered that their main reason for not affiliating stems from the fact that there are presently few large schools affiliated.

Mr. Bendt, Mr. Ellis and I have investigated this problem and do believe there is a solution. We are hoping to present it to the National Council when it meets during the Christmas vacation.

DECEMBER

18 Pop Concert and dance, Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, Kleinhans Music Hall, 8:30 p.m.

13-15 Theatre: "The Andersonville Trial," Cheektowaga Central Civic Theatre, Cheektowaga Central High School Theatre.

14 Sports: College Basketball, St. Bonaventure vs. Xavier, and Canisius vs. Dayton, Memorial Auditorium.

15 Symphony Concert: Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, Isaac Stern and Alexander Schneider, soloists, Kleinhans Music Hall, 2:30 p.m.

15 Lecture: "Land of the Shining Mountains," (color film), Arthur Dewey, photographer, traveler, Buffalo & Erie County Historical Society, 2:45 p.m.

17 Symphonic Concert: Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, Isaac Stern and Alexander Schneider, Soloists, Kleinhans Music Hall, 8:30 p.m.

19 Sports: College Basketball, Canisius vs. Western Ontario, Memorial Auditorium.

20 Symphony Concert: "The Messiah," Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, Kleinhans Music Hall, 8:30 p.m.

21 Sports: College Basketball, St. Bonaventure vs. Eastern Kentucky and Canisius vs. Connecticut, Memorial Auditorium.

Christmas Myths

Christmas for most of us is filled with tradition of either religious or national origin. The following article is an excerpt from the *National Observer* (December 2, 1963) which sheds a different light of the traditions that we have grown accustomed to.

"Ornamental legend, fables" — that's how Dutch author H. W. van der Vaart Smit characterizes most of our Christmas tradition. He believes we shortchanged ourselves by trading "myth" for fact in building the "Christmas story."

Two years ago Mr. van der Vaart Smit, now 75, doctor of theology and former Evangelical minister before converting to Catholicism in 1936, challenged hallowed Christmas concepts in a slim book published in German. The work sparked fiery criticism; it quickly ran into three printings.

This month Helicon Press of Baltimore will release a translation of Mr. van der Vaart Smit's work done by Thomas R. Milligan, professor of German language at Manhattan College in New York. The book *Born in Bethlehem: Christmas as It Really Was*, can hardly be called anti-religious. It carries the imprimatur of Baltimore's Archbishop Lawrence J. Shehan and the nihil obstat (official declaration that the book is free from moral or doctrinal error) of the Rev. Carroll E. Satterfield, censor of manuscripts for the Archdiocese of Baltimore.

Mr. van der Vaart Smit's book is, by his own description, a "popularization," a distillation of long-prevalent scholarly explanations. But Mr. van der Vaart Smit writes for laymen, not scripture scholars. He declares in his book that he wants to avoid stomping on the public's emotions; "but," he writes, "anyone who truly wants a right understanding of the history of Jesus, birth must spare no effort in examining these considerations and in penetrating to the real events. A realm of overpowering truth and beauty will then be revealed, a story which is at the same time completely human and yet beyond

all measure divine."

What are the "considerations" he mentions? Here are a few:

TAKING A LOOK AT THAT SO-CALLED CENSUS.

The "census" mentioned in some translations of St. Luke's gospel was really a "formal assessment of (individual) capital worth." We can picture the assessment taking place this way: Roman commissioner helped by Jewish collaborators slowly moved through Israel, spending a few months in each locale, and making a thorough check of properties.

"All" the Jewish people did not have to travel elsewhere for this assessment. Only those who had possessions in the district in which the Roman assessors were working found it advantageous to confront the officials. And Jewish property owners went not because the hated Romans decreed it, but because they wanted to see that the Romans didn't place too high a value on their goods.

Those who did take to the road to meet the assessors went at different times. After all, the assessors couldn't be everywhere at once. Joseph went to Bethlehem because he owned enough property there to warrant leaving his Nazareth workshop for about six months to present his case. He left in plenty of time to meet the officials before they moved from Bethlehem and as early as possible to keep from making the trip too difficult on his pregnant wife.

BETHELEHEM WAS IT REALLY CRUEL?

When Mary and Joseph arrived in Bethlehem after their 4-day, 93-mile trek "they learned that the lodgings in the village were already well filled. But it is crude to portray Joseph as a poor simpleton who helplessly stumbles along behind his wife, and stands by with an expressionless countenance. It is equally silly to portray cruel Bethlehemites who have no feeling at all for the young woman, and to show Joseph and Mary as having found lodging with an ox and an ass in a place where the birth

of the Saviour would take place. "In his native town of Bethlehem, where honor would be given to one of David, the highly respected Joseph was surely not surrounded by "cruel" Bethlehemites — quite the opposite, for here he found every assistance and support he could wish for."

Christ's birth took place in August, 7 B.C., in the full tropical heat of Judean summer. The shepherds had taken their flocks higher up in the mountains to graze where the grass was still green, not burnt as the grass around Bethlehem was. The shepherd's exodus left the sheds of the caravansary (stables built as round enclosures surrounded by a wide, rough wall) vacant.

Since Bethlehem was (and still is) in the mountains, the owner of the town caravansary could have incorporated caves or grottos into his enclosure and rented them. These stables "might have been just as good as any room in the village. There was no room for them in the inn," says the text very simple. This calm and clear statement should not be elaborately dramatized. The room in the stables was probably very little different from the rooms in the inn and in summer was perhaps even pleasanter.

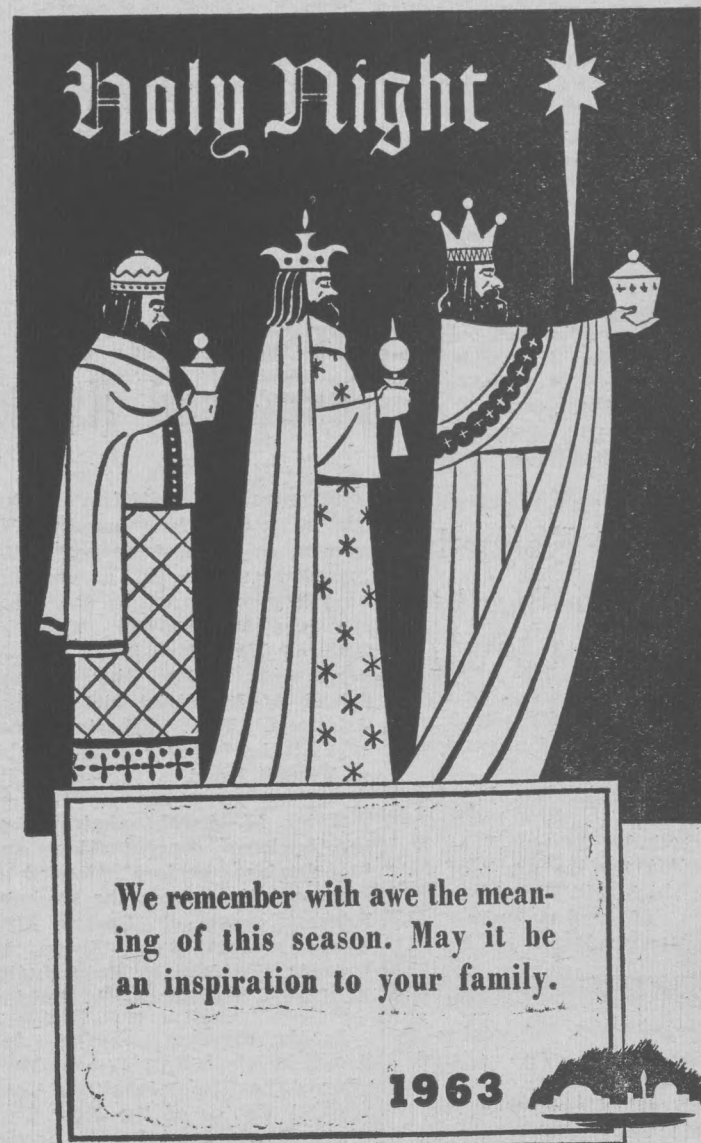
THEY WANDERED AFAR

"We are entertained by stories of the three kings, whose names are even known, namely Kaspar, Melchior, and Balthasar, and of whom one is supposed to have been black, in his role as representative of the Negro race. We are shown their graves in Constantinople, Milan, and Cologne." The magi were neither three, nor kings. They were priest-astrologers Chaldeans from Babylon. "That one of the three had a black skin seems to contradict what we know of the circumstances in Babylon. There were 'black' people there, but only as slaves. And one of these slaves might have been a priest? No. "The number of magi is said to have been three which was derived by analogy with the number of gifts — gold frankincense and myrrh.

SIGNAL IN THE SKY

The star of Bethlehem looked little like the seven-pointed, brilliantly glittering body pictured on Christmas cards. In the strict sense of the word, it wasn't a star

of 7 B.C., that the double star in the Near East was continuously visible on any clear night for nine months from the beginning of April, and could be observed sometimes after midnight, and at



at all. The "star of Bethlehem" was the name given the conjunction of the planets Saturn and Jupiter in the constellation Pisces that occurred in the year 7 B.C., the year Christ was born. Heavenly bodies are in conjunction when they appear in the same part of the heavens. Astronomy "tells us concerning the major conjunction

times throughout the entire night." The appropriate section in St. Matthew's gospel "unmistakably shows that the star was seen and could only be seen by astronomer and astrologers; the people of Jerusalem, no experts in astronomy, saw nothing in the sky, nor could they see anything."